

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IO-13

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG FAO

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN LATIN AMERICAN AND OTHER

REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF FAO

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1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH ABOVE SUBJECT IS NOT ON AGENDA OF 69TH SESSION OF FAO COUNCIL, JULY 12-16, IT MAY BE BROUGHT UP UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS ITEM. USG PLANS TO CONTINUE ITS PRESENT MEMBERSHIP IN CONFERENCES FOR LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA AND FAR EAST IF POSSIBLE. INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN FOR APPROACHES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. ISSUE CONCERNS MEMBERSHIP (AS OPPOSED TO OBSERVER STATUS) IN FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF COUNTRIES OUTSIDE RESPECTIVE REGIONS. ISSUE WAS RAISED AGAINST FRANCE IN 1972 IN LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE AND IN 1974 IN AFRICAN CONFERENCE, AND AGAINST U.S. IN LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE AT LIMA IN APRIL 1976. AS RESULT LATEST OCCURRENCE, MEXICAN DELEGATE, WHO WITH CUBA LED ATTACK ON U.S. MEMBERSHIP, HAS STATED INTENTION OF RAISING IN FAO COUNCIL MEETING JULY 12-16 GENERAL QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDERS IN REGIONAL CONFERENCES. MEXICO WAS SUPPORTED IN LIMA CONFERENCE BY PERU AND PANAMA, AS WELL AS TWO OR THREE OTHERS NOT ON FAO COUNCIL. SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN PLACED

ON COUNCIL AGENDA, AND SECRETARIAT AGREES THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME. LIMA MEETING, HOWEVER, RECOMMENDED ITS PLACEMENT ON THIS COUNCIL'S AGENDA.

3. AS BACKGROUND, U.S. IS MEMBER OF FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES FOR LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA AND FAR EAST BASED ON ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN AREAS IN THOSE TWO REGIONS AND ON ITS CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF LATIN AMERICAN REGION. U.S. IS OBSERVER AT OTHER THREE REGIONAL CONFERENCES, AFRICA, NEAR EAST AND EUROPE. FRANCE AND NETHERLANDS ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF LA CONFERENCE, AND FRANCE IS MEMBER OF ASIA AND FAR EAST CONFERENCE AND WAS MEMBER OF AFRICAN GROUP UNTIL IT REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED OBSERVER STATUS AS RESULT OF OBJECTIONS RAISED IN 1974.

4. U.S. VIEWS ON QUESTION FOLLOW:

A. BLANKET ELIMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN FAO REGIONAL BODIES FOR GOVERNMENTS WHOSE HOME TERRITORY IS NOT IN THOSE REGIONS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONSIDERED. LOCATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF TERRITORIES, ASSOCIATED STATES AND COMMONWEALTHS IN THOSE REGIONS CONSTITUTES PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF COMMON INTEREST IN THEIR MAINTAINING SUCH MEMBERSHIP.

B. IF IT IS TO BE PURSUED AT ALL, DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO FALL SESSION OF FAO COUNCIL. JULY SPECIAL SESSION IS BRIEF AND FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF DEALING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PROPOSALS ON REORGANI-

ZATION OF PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET. EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUE SUCH AS THIS WOULD DELAY AND COMPLICATE ACTION ON SUBJECT AT HAND.

C. U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN LA REGIONAL CONFERENCE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BECAUSE: (1) U.S. IS MORE CLOSELY PART OF LA REGION THAN OF ANY OTHER, BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND HISTORICALLY.

(2) LONG HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTIVE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN LA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FAO, UNDP, WFP, OAS, AND THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (IAIAS). (U.S. CONTRIBUTES PREPONDERANT PART OF REGULAR BUDGETS OF OAS AND IAIAS).

(3) U.S. HAS DIRECT, MAJOR INTEREST IN MANY LA AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PLANT AND ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL.

(4) TIES OF COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO TO U.S., LOCATION OF U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND REPRESENTATION OF THEIR INTERESTS ARE FURTHER JUSTIFICATION OF U.S. MEMBERSHIP.

(5) FAO DECISION CONTRARY TO OUR INTERESTS COULD BE PRECEDENT FOR SIMILAR ACTION IN OTHER BODIES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. FOR ARA ADDRESSEES. EMBASSY SHOULD AT ITS DISCRETION DISCUSS THIS MATTER SOONEST WITH SUITABLE AUTHORITIES WITH VIEW TO ELICITING SUPPORT BY HOST COUNTRY'S DELEGATION AT NEXT WEEK'S SESSION IN ROME, OR SOFTENING HOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY POSITION IN CASE OF MEXICO, PANAMA AND LIMA. DESIRABLE OUTCOME INCLUDES POSTPONEMENT, PREFERABLY ON INFORMAL BASIS WITHOUT DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL. IF DISCUSSION OCCURS, SUPPORT ON FLOOR FOR DISMISSING SUBJECT OR IN FAVOR OF U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN LA REGIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. ADVISE WITH INFO COPY ROME.

B. FOR PARIS AND THE HAGUE. PLEASE INFORM AUTHORITIES OF CONTENTS PARA 4 ABOVE AND REPORT ON POSITION HOST COUNTRY DELEGATION WILL TAKE AT ROME, IF POSSIBLE, ON QUESTIONS IN 4-A AND B. ROBINSON

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